

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

June 3, 2003

Electronic Reports to the Child Abuse Hotline

The Department of Children and Family Services has an important mission in protecting children from abuse and neglect. The Child Abuse Hotline serves as the initial intake for child abuse reports and is often critical to the life or death of a child. The Child Abuse Hotline receives reports of suspected child abuse and neglect 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Often, the Child Abuse Hotline is overburdened with calls causing telephone problems and other technical difficulties. The department is currently developing a back-up system and an overall assessment of the Hotline operations. During the assessment, it would also be prudent for the department to consider the feasibility of utilizing a computerized form for callers to reduce the number of calls and increase efficiency.

M O R E

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT the Board instruct the Director of Children and Family Services, along with the Chief Information Officer to report back within 120 days on the development of a computerize system to receive child abuse reports; and to consult with County Counsel regarding the modification of the California Penal Code to include electronic reporting as an acceptable medium for receiving reports of suspected child abuse or neglect.

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